

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00
AGR-01 IO-13 FRB-03 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ABF-01 /099 W
-----098286 160106Z /13

R 151149Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5100
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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LAGOS FOR AGATT

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, GH
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR CCC FACILITIES

REF: (A) ACCRA 5627; (B) ACCRA 6400

1. SUMMARY. GOG HAS CABLED GHANA EMBASSY, WASHINGTON
TO ARRANGE FOR PURCHASE OF 36,000 MT OF YELLOW CORN
UNDER CCC CREDIT FACILITIES. MFA HERE HAS ASKED US TO
REQUEST USG PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO ASSIST THE
GHANAIAN EMBASSY TO EXPEDITE THIS PURCHASE. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICER CONCERNED WITH
DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMIES IN ECONOMIC DIVISION
CALLED IN ECON COUNSELOR AUGUST 14 AND READ TELEGRAM SENT
AUG 11 FROM MFA TO GHANA EMBASSY WASHINGTON. CABLE
INSTRUCTED GHANA EMBASSY TO ARRANGE FOR PURCHASE OF
36,000 METRIC TONS OF YELLOW MAIZE (CORN) WITH CCC
FINANCING, AND TO CABLE FULL INFORMATION ON COST,
DELIVERY DATES AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. MFA CABLE
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ASKED THAT MAIZE BE SHIPPED IN TWO CONSIGNMENTS WITH
24,000 MT TO COME AT ONCE (ETA END-SEPTEMBER) AND THE
REMAINING 12,000 TO BE SHIPPED IN EARLY 1979.

3. EXPLAINING THAT GHANA'S LAWS REQUIRE SUCH FOOD
PURCHASES TO BE MADE "AS FAR AS POSSIBLE" ON A GOVERNMENT-
TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS, MFA OFFICER ASKED THAT EMBASSY ALERT

USDA CCC TO THIS GOG APPROACH AND GHANA'S WISH TO BENEFIT FROM CCC ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING THIS PURCHASE, ESPECIALLY IN MAKING JUDGMENTS CONCERNING US GRAIN DEALERS AND PRICES OFFERED.

4. MFA OFFICER ALSO ASKED IF UNDER CCC SALES, FIFTY PERCENT OF COMMODITIES SO FINANCED HAD TO BE SHIPPED ON US VESSELS. GOG WOULD HOPE, WITHIN SHIPPING SCHEDULE LIMITATIONS, TO SHIP THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE ON GHANA BLACK STAR LINE VESSELS.

5. ECON COUNSELOR WELCOMED GOG DECISION TO MAKE CCC PURCHASE, NOTED THAT SHIPPING SCHEDULES MIGHT ACCOMMODATE END-SEPTEMBER DELIVERY, ALERTED MFA TO THE NEED FOR RECONFIRMATION OF GHANA'S PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS BY US BANKS, AND AGREED TO TRANSMIT PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON THIS INFORMATION AND REQUEST.

6. COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION. AS READERS OF REFTELS ARE AWARE, WE HAVE ENCOURAGED GOG USE OF CCC CREDIT AS A MEANS OF IMMEDIATELY OBTAINING NEEDED IMPORTS. WE DO BELIEVE THAT THOUGHFUL USG ATTENTION TO THIS FIRST SUCH GOG USE OF CCC CREDIT WOULD PAY DIVIDENDS IN TERMS OF FURTHER FUTURE SALES. MOREOVER, TI WOULD UNDERSCORE OUR GENUINE INTEREST IN HELPING THIS NEW PRO-WESTERN ADMINISTRATION, WHILE ANY USG ASSISTANCE OF SOFT-TERMS MUST AWAIT A NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC PROGRAM AND THE IMF ASSESSMENT OF THAT PROGRAM (STATE 184659). ACCORDINGLY, WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE GHANAIAN EMBASSY AND OFFER TO BE HELPFUL?

7. PLEASE ALSO KEEP US POSTED ON THIS, SO WE MAY RESPOND TO THIS APPROACH BY MFA. HOLMES

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NNN

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